

FINAL HANDOVER REPORT



BETWEEN



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

AND



KAYONZA DISTRICT

IMPLEMENTATION OF LDCF II PROJECT IN KAYONZA DISTRICT (2017-2023)

JUNE 2023

1. INTRODUCTION OF LDCF II PROJECT

Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) implemented the project titled: "Building resilience of communities living in degraded forests, savannahs and wetlands of Rwanda through an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach"; abbreviated as LDCF II project an acronym for Least Developed Countries Fund. The project was funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), climate change adaptation focal area. The main objective of the project is to increase capacity of Rwandan authorities and local communities to adapt to climate change by implementing Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) interventions in degraded forests, savannahs and wetlands. The project was implemented in Gasabo, Kirehe, Kayonza, Bugesera, Ngororero, and Musanze Districts from 2017 to 2023.

The project had the following three components:

Component 1: National and local institutional capacities strengthened for implementation of EbA approach to increase resilience of local communities to climate change;

Component 2: EbA interventions that reduce vulnerability and restore natural capital;

Component 3: Policy, planning and legislation strengthened for adaptation to climate change.

In close collaboration between the Districts and REMA, LDCFII project was successfully implemented and reduced vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change to the local communities in the sites of the project intervention.

2. RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

Kayonza District which is in savanna region is among the Districts in Rwanda that have undergone intensive deforestation in the last two decades, leading to degradation of savannas and forests, scarcity of wood fuels which is the sole source of energy, inter alia, and consequently increased vulnerability of local communities to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Rural landscapes of Ndego and Rwinkwavu Sectors in Kayonza District consist of farmlands interspersed with savannas and forest areas. These landscapes support livelihoods of both



farmers and livestock keepers through a set of ecosystem services such as provisioning (food, fodder, medicines, construction materials and wood fuels); supporting (soil fertility, moisture, biodiversity); regulating (climate, water and air quality); and cultural and recreational services. These ecosystem services are essential for the resilience of the local communities to climate changes. However, these savannas and forests ecosystems are depleting and at risk due to high population density, increasing need for arable land, uncontrolled exploitation, and minimal application of conservation measures.

To reverse the trend and create conditions for the District's sustainable development, it was necessary to develop projects that improve local communities' livelihoods while preserving and conserving its natural resources.

3. OBJECTIVE OF LDCFII PROJECT IN KAYONZA DISTRICT

a) General objective

The objective of this project is to restore degraded savanna and forests ecosystems in Kayonza District using Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach to increase resilience of local communities to the observed and anticipated effects of climate change.

b) Specific objectives

- Restoration of degraded Kibare lakeshores by plantation of bamboo and agroforestry on 80 Ha and fruit trees on 32 Km.
- Restoration of savanna ecosystem on Rwinkwavu hill by plantation of indigenous trees on 200 Ha.
- Construction of a selling point and storage adjacent to Lake Kibare to replace market activities that were conducted in the lake's buffer zone.
- Supply and installation of solar-powered irrigation system for agricultural purposes at Byimana site in Ndego Sector.
- Supply and installation of solar powered water supply system for cattle around Lake Kibare in Ndego Sector.
- Supply and installation of 145 rainwater-harvesting tanks in Ndego Sector.



4. LDCF II PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN KAYONZA DISTRICT

Nº	Project achievements	Survival rate	Budget (frw)	
1	Restoration of degraded Kibare lakeshores by plantation of bamboo and agroforestry on 80 Ha, fruit trees on 32 Km, and excavation of demarcation line on 16 Km.	Agroforestry	90%	34,541,965
		Bamboo	86%	
		Fruit trees	60%	
		Demarcation line	100%	
2	Restoration of savanna ecosystem on Rwinkwavu hill by plantation of indigenous trees on 200 Ha	87%	130,669,118	
3	Construction of a selling point and storage adjacent to Lake Kibare to replace market activities that were conducted in the lake's buffer zone	N/A	180,755,665	
4	Supply and installation of solar-powered irrigation system for agricultural purposes on 15 Ha at Byimana site in Ndego Sector.	N/A	72,667,264	
5	Supply and installation of solar powered water supply system for cattle around Lake Kibare in Ndego Sector.	N/A	64,595,426	
6	Supply and installation of 145 rainwater-harvesting tanks in Ndego Sector.	N/A	62,291,342	
NB: Households that benefited directly from the project is 2810				

5. ILLUSTRATION OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN PICTURES



Lake Kibare buffer zones after restoration



Lake Kibare buffer zone after restoration



Rwinkwavu hill before restoration



Rwinkwavu hill after restoration



Market place before the selling point



Selling point

PA P JK



Cattle drinking area before water supply



Thoroughts



Solar panels for irrigation system



Solar irrigation system at Byimana site



Farmland before solar irrigation system



Farmland after solar irrigation system

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6. LDCF II PROJECT SUCCESS AND LESSON LEARNED

- a) **Capacity building:** The project beneficiaries have acquired appropriate knowledge and skills in the project related activities and thus can serve elsewhere in their communities for tree nursery preparation, tree plantation, and solar powered irrigation system. Local government officials in the District were empowered in EbA, monitoring and evaluation, and implementation and management of EbA related projects.
- b) **Social cohesion built:** The project has increased the social integration, cohesion, trust and solidarity among the community beneficiaries.
- c) **Job creation:** The project was implemented using community approach, thus provided jobs to the local communities, hence enabled them to earn income as well as creating in them the culture of saving and built their capacities on working with financial institutions.
- d) **Women Economic Empowerment:** The project was gender sensitive hence contributed to women economic empowerment.
- e) **Soil erosion control:** Planted trees and erosion control ditches to protect the buffer zones reduced runoff and minimized soil erosion.
- f) **Participatory approach:** The project was implemented through consultative and participatory approach, this generated behavioral change and boosted ownership of project outputs among the beneficiaries. Moreover, community based cooperatives were formed and supported.
- g) **Climate resilient opportunities and natural forest protection:** The project enhanced climate resilience of local communities, on the one hand through establishment of alternative livelihoods such solar irrigation system, on the other hand bolstered protection and conservation of Lake Kibare.
- h) **Tree plantation:** Due to prolonged drought that is common in Kayonza District, it is imperative to prepare enough seedlings for beating up every year for the first three years of the project.

7. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure sustainability of the project outputs, the following measures were undertaken:

- a) Local communities were trained in management and maintenance of the project activities, as well as environmental protection and conservation, thus they have required skills to sustain project activities.
- b) Awareness campaigns on environmental laws, regulations and importance of conserving ecosystems as means of adapting to climate change were conducted. Beneficiary local communities are aware of laws and regulations on environmental protection and conservation, as well as importance of healthy ecosystems for their livelihoods.
- c) The project contributed to poverty reduction through support of livelihoods projects that are linked to the restored ecosystems, and hence increased local communities' guardianship of the restored ecosystems.
- d) Cooperatives were formed for supported livelihoods projects to ensure concerted efforts in sustaining the livelihoods projects and restored ecosystems.
- e) Members of the cooperatives contribute on seasonal basis to established cooperatives baskets to ensure availability of funds for maintenance of project activities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

a) **Kayonza District Authorities**

- ❖ To continue the success of the project through mobilization and capacity building of key stakeholders and service providers: Capacity building is an ongoing process that is required to keep up with the ever-changing environment.
- ❖ Continuous monitoring of project activities, at least quarterly.



b) **Local communities (Project Beneficiaries)**

- ❖ Ensure regular maintenance of project activities.
- ❖ Ensure development of the established beekeeping cooperative.


Approved by:

a) Technical team

On behalf of Kayonza District


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b) Management

On behalf of Kayonza District

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